# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2695
ANSWERED ON:01.08.2017
Commission on Agriculture Issues
Chautala Shri Dushyant;Pradhan Shri Nagendra Kumar;Raju Shri Gokaraju Ganga

**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the Union Government has appointed a number of Commissions/ Committees to study agriculture and farmers issues and give suggestions for agricultural reforms and if so, the details of such Commissions/Committees appointed since independence and the major suggestions made by them;

(b) whether some Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) have approached the Supreme Court for implementation of the recommendations of the Swaminathan Commission in letter and spirit and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Supreme Court has issued any direction in this regard and if so, the details thereof and the response of the Government thereto;

(d) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has recently sent 'Jayathi Ghosh Commission' report on Farmers Issues to the Union Government and if so, the details thereof and the response of the Government in this regard; and

(e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government for implementation of suggestions/recommendations of Commissions/Committees including Swaminathan Commission in the country?

## Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

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(a): The Union Government had constituted two major Commissions to study agriculture and farmers issues and give suggestions for agricultural reforms, viz., the National Commission on Agriculture, 1976 and the National Commission on Farmers (NCF), 2004. The major recommendations of the NCF is as follows:

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(i) Asset Reforms covering land, water, livestock, fisheries and bio-resources and having National Agricultural Bio-security System in place.

(ii) Farmer-friendly Support Services including setting up of Bio-Technology Regulatory Authority, and covering extension, training and knowledge connectivity, credit and insurance, assured and remunerative marketing opportunities, inputs and services.

(iii) Curriculum reforms in the Agriculture Universities in order to promote entrepreneurship amongst the students.

(iv) Providing for Special Categories of Farming, increase in farmers' income through co-operative farming, contract farming, promoting small holders' estates in order to improve viability of small and marginal farmers and entrusting the Panchayat Raj Institutions with responsibility for agriculture.

(v) National Loan Use Advisory Service to provide timely advice to farmers about optimum use of land, taking into account the climatic and market conditions.

(vi) Setting up of market Price Stabilization Fund and Agriculture Risk Fund and coverage of farmers under a comprehensive National Social Security Scheme.

(vii) Creation of a National Food Security and Sovereignty Board and enacting a Food Guarantee Act.

(viii) Rural non-farm livelihood initiatives to create non-farm employment opportunities in rural areas.

(b) & (c): Youth Kamal Organization, Consortium of Indian Farmers Association and Citizens Resource and Action Initiative (CRANTI) have approached the Supreme Court for implementation of the recommendations of the Swaminathan Commission. As of now, the matter is sub-judice.

(d): No, Madam.
(e): Government had constituted the National Commission on Farmers (NCF) under the Chairmanship of Dr. M. S. Swaminathan in 2004. The Commission submitted five reports to the Government. The major recommendations of the Commission contained in the five reports were included in the 'Draft National Policy for Farmers' submitted by the Commission itself in 2006. Based on the 'Draft National Policy for Farmers', the Government approved the National Policy for Farmers-2007, which aims to improve economic viability of farming and increase net income of farmers.

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Policy provisions in NPF-2007 include, inter-alia, (i) asset reforms in respect of land, water, livestock, fisheries and bio-resources; (ii) supply of good quality seeds and disease-free planting material, (iii) issue of soil health passbooks to the farmers and integrated pest management system; (iv) region and crop specific implements and machinery; (v) support services for women; (vi) timely, adequate and easy reach of institutional credit at reasonable interest rates and farmer-friendly insurance instruments; (vii) support services and inputs like application of frontier technologies; (viii) agricultural bio-security system; (ix) use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and setting up of farm schools to revitalize agricultural extension; (x) coverage of farmers under a comprehensive national social security scheme; (xi) effective implementation of Minimum Support Price (MSP) across the country and establishing community foodgrain banks; (xii) development of agricultural market infrastructure and terminal markets for agriculture; (xiii) curriculum reforms in agricultural universities; (xiv) special categories of farming like organic farming and contract farming; (xv) rural non-farm employment initiative for farm households; and (xvi) integrated approach for rural energy, etc. The various schemes/programmes/missions adopted by the Ministry are based on the National Policy for Farmers-2007.

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